Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06204 01 OF 02 161345Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 PC-01 /068 W
----------161355Z 092328 /53
O P 161230Z JUN #8
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2315
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6204

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJ: GOVERNMENT-PNA REACH BASIC AGREEMENT ON ELECTION:
SUBCOMMITTEE TO WORK OUT DETAILS

REF: ISLAMABAD 6147

1. SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION HAVE COME TO
A BASIC AGREEMENT ON NEW NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS TO BE HELD SOMETIME THIS FALL AND ARRANGEMENTS
TO SAFEGUARD THE POLLING PROCESS. A TWO-MAN SUBCOMMITTEE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06204 01 OF 02 161345Z

HASB EEN APPOINTED TO WORK OUT THE LEGAL DETAILS. OFFICIAL
SPOKESMEN FROM BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE
SETTLEMENT WILL BE A SUCCESS; ASGHAR KHAN REMAINS DOUBTFUL.
WELL INFORMED JOURNALISTS BELIEVE THE AGREEMENT INCLUDES
PROVISION FOR A JUDICIAL ARBITRATION COMMITTEE AND OTHER
GUARANTEES. THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR PRAISED THE ACCORD
AND CONGRATULATED BOTH SIDES. DESPITE LAST MINUTE CONCERNS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

THAT THE TALKS MIGHT STILL DEADLOCK, NEW ELECTIONS NOW
SEEM A CERTAINTY. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE NINTH PLENARY ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT AND THE PNA IN ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 15, THE TWO
SIDES REPORTEDLY HAMMERED OUT A BASIC AGREEMENT ON ELECTIONS
AND ELECTION SAFEGUARDS. FINANCE MINISTER HAFEEZ PIRZADA
AND PNA LEADER PROFESSOR GHAFOOR WILL FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE
ON JUNE 16 TO WORK OUT THE LEGALITIES INVOLVED. ALTHOUGH
THERE IS NO FIRM ESTIMATE, JOURNALISTIC SOURCES SPECULATE
THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE MAY COMPLETE ITS WORK OVER THE
WEEKEND, PAVING THE WAY FOR A FINAL, FORMAL ACCORD
WHICH WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, BOTH SIDES FORMALLY STATED
THEY WOULD NOT REVEAL ANY OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE AGREEMENT
UNTIL THE SETTLEMENT PACKAGE IS COMPLETED, SIGNED AND
MADE PUBLIC. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MAULANA KAUSAR NIAZI
TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER THE TALKS ON JUNE 15 THAT THE NEGO-
TIATIONS HAD BEEN HELD IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE
MARKED THROUGHOUT BY UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL.

HE REITERATED THAT THE DATE FOR ELECTIONS HAD BEEN FIXED
FOR SOMETIME BETWEEN THE END OF RAMAZAN (MID-SEPTEMBER)
AND THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. (ESTIMATES VARY, BUT MOST
INFORMED SOURCES BELIEVE THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD
SOMETIME IN EARLY OCTOBER.)

4. PNA LEADER PROFESSOR GHAFOOR, RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 06204 01 OF 02 161345Z

FROM THE PRESS ON JUNE 15 ABOUT HIS VIEW OF THE GREEMENT
AND THE TIMING OF THE ELECTIONS, REPORTEDLY PLEADED FOR
PATIENCE AND REFUSED TO GIVE A SPECIFIC DATE, NOTING THAT
THE DETAILS STILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT. GHAFOOR ADDED
THAT HE HAS NO APPREHENSIONS ABOUT A DEADLOCK DEVELOPING
IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE. IN CASE OF ANY DISPUTE, HE SAID,
THE MATTER WOULD BE REFERRED BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TEAMS.

5. SPEAKING AT A DINNER HOSTED BY AIR MARSHAL ASGHAR KHAN
ON JUNE 15, PNA PRESIDENT MUFTI MAHMUD ASSURED THE AUDIENCE
THAT ALL NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE FREE AND FAIR
ELECTIONS WOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE FORMAL AGREEMENT.
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MUFTI SAID THE PEOPLE WILL KNOW
ALL THE DETAILS IN A FEW DAYS, BUT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION
TO DISCLOSE THEM AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE AIR MARSHAL,
SPEAKING AT THE SAME DINNER, TOOK A MORE JAUNDICED VIEW
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE THREE
STAGES -- AGREEING TO HOLD ELECTIONS, SETTLING THE DETAILS
AND IMPLEMENTING THE ACCORD. IT WOULD BE ERRONEOUS TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

CONCLUDE AFTER TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT, HE WARNED, THAT EVERY-
THING WAS "JUST ALRIGHT." HE SAID A NUMBER OF THINGS
INCLUDING SUCH IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AS THE APPOINTMENT OF
GOVERNORS, COMPOSITION OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION AND
CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES REMAIN TO BE PUT INTO
WRITING. HE URGED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE FORMED TO LOOK
INTO THESE AND OTHER DETAILS COMPLETE ITS WORK AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE BECAUSE "THE PEOPLE COULD NOT WAIT FOR LONG."
IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, HE CONFIRMED IT HAD BEEN AGREED
TO HOLD ELECTIONS SOON AFTER RAMAZAN, PROBABLY IN EARLY
OCTOBER.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06204 02 OF 02 161341Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 PC-01 /068 W
----------161355Z 092149 /53
O P 161230Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2316
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORTY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABULHLRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
QRCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 3948
AMEMBAYLY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
/
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I F E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6204

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. INFORMED JOURNALISTS BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PNA
HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON A BROAD RANGE OF VIEWS. ACCORDING TO
THESE SOURCES, AS SOON AS THE FINAL AGREEMENT IS ANNOUNCED, THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE DISSOLVED AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERN-
MENTS DISMISSED. NEW GOVERNORS WITH FULL POWERS WILL THEN BE
APPOINTED WITH THE MUTUAL CONSENT OF BOTH SIDES. CIVIL SERVANTS
WHO WERE INVOLVED IN MALPRACTICES IN LAST MARCH'S ELECTION AND
MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE NEXT ONE -- THE CHIEF
OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE, DIVISIONAL AND DEPUTY COMM-
ISSIONERS, CHIEF SECRETARIES, INSPECTORS GENERAL OF POLICE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06204 02 OF 02 161341Z

SOME FEDERAL SECRETARIES -- WILL BE SHIFTED. GOVERNORS WILL
BE AUTHORIZED TO TRANSFER OR REMOVE ANY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
WHO INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTION,, WHICH WILL BE SUPERVISED
BY THE ARMY AND THE JUDICIARY. ALL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION
CONTRARY TO FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS WILL BE REPEALED AND ANY NEW
AMENDMENTS NECESSARY TO MAKE WAY FOR THE POLLS ADOPTED. THE
RECENT ELECTIONS TO THE SENATE WILL ALSO BE NULLIFIED. SIGNIF-
ICANTLY, THE ARMY WILL BE CALLED BACK TO ITS BARRACKS IN
BALUCHISTAN. A TEN-MAN COMMITTEE WITH FIVE MEMBERS FROM EACH
SIDE WILL REPORTEDLY BE FORMED TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE FINAL ACCORD. ANY PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE THAT IT CANNOT
SOLVE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO A SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE CONSIST-
ING OF THREE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES WHO WILL HAVE 72 HOURS TO
HAND DOWN A BINDING DECISION. FINAL DETAILS OF THESE AND
OTHER POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS, HOWEVER, REMAIN TO BE WORKED
OUT BY THE PIRZADA/GHAFOOR SUBCOMMITTEE.

7. SAUDI AMBASSADOR RIYADH AL KHATIB WARMLY WELCOMED THE NEWS OF
THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, DESCRIBING HIS MEDIATING
ROLE IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH APP AS PERHAPS THE MOST
IMPORTANT MISSION IN HIS THIRTY YEAR CAREER AS A DIPLOMAT.
THE AMBASSADOR EXTENDED CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT
AND THE PNA AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NO MISTAKES OR MISINTER-
PRETATIONS WOULD ARISE IN THE DAYS AHEAD. HE SAID THE NEWS OF
THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE RECEIVED WITH "GREAT JOY" IN SAUDI ARABIA,
POINTING OUT THAT KING KHALID HAS BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED ABOUT
THE TALKS. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FULL
COOPERATION FROM BOTH PARTIES, WITH WHOM HE HAD MORE THAN SIXTY
MEETINGS DURING HIS SEVEN WEEK ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY.

8. COMMENT: LAST MINUTE CONCERNS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT
WIND UP IN A DEADLOCK HAVE PROVED UNFOUNDED. DESPITE THE FACT
THAT MUCH FINE DETAIL REMAINS TO BE WORKED OUT, THE BASIC
SETTLEMENT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. WHILE SOME FURTHER
PROBLEMS MAY ARISE BEFORE THE FINAL ACCORD IS INTITIALLED,
FEW OBSERVERS NOW DOUBT THAT PAKISTAN IS HEADED FOR ANOTHER GEN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 06204 02 OF 02 161341Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ERAL ELECTION. AS WE EARLIER REPORTED, THIS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED PRIMARILY TO THREE FACTORS; PRESSURE ON BHUTTO FROM THE ARMY, PRESSURE ON BOTH SIDES FROM THE SAUDIS AND BHUTTO'S FEAR THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION WOULD GO OUT OF CONTROL IF THE TALKS BROKE DOWN. FACED WITH THIS SITUATION, BHUTTO APPARENTLY REALIZED THAT ELECTIONS WERE THE ONLY WAY OUT AND OPTED FOR NEW POLLS BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE. THE ONLY FACESAVING ASPECT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER IS THE OPPOSITION'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO REGARD THE NEW ELECTIONS AS THE SECOND HELD UNDER THE PRESENT CONSTIT-UTION, THEREBY IMPLYING THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THE VALIDITY OF THE MARCH POLLS.

9. FOR THE PNA, THE BREAKTHROUGH IS AN IMPORTANT VICTORY. DESPITE BHUTTO'S EARLIER VOWS NOT TO HOLD FRESH ELECTIONS, THEY HAVE FORCED HIM TO CONCEDE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL DEMAND. PNA UNITY REMAINS INTACT, AND PROBABLY HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THEIR SUCCESS AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THE OPPSOITION HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT CAN TALK AS WELL AS FIGHT, FURTHER ENHANCING ITS PUBLIC IMAGE.
CONSTABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, OPPOSITION PARTIES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA06204
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770215-0304
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770651/aaaabsnd.tel
Line Count: 245
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd07077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 6147
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2132515
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT-PNA REACH BASIC AGREEMENT ON ELECTION: COMMITTEE TO WORK OUT DETAILS
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cd07077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009